

MI Urban & Community Forestry Council
- Minutes of -
Thursday, June 5th
Conference Call / DNR office - Lansing

Members present (voting):

Tom Abramson, Jerry Adams, Pete Baker, Bob Bricault, Jeff Dunmire, Vic Foerster, Marshal Baeckeroot, Bert Cregg, Bill Lawrence, Rebecca Salminen-Witt

Members present (non-voting):

Kevin Sayers, Ada Takacs

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm by Kevin Sayers.

Approval of Agenda:

Vic Foerster moved to accept the agenda.
Jeff Dunmire. seconded the motion.

Approval of Minutes:

Jeff Dunmire. moved to accept the previous meeting minutes. Jerry Adams seconded the motion.

Public Comment:

None

Announcements:

- Kevin and Ada will send card of condolence on behalf of MUCFC to Kathy Fischer.
- MI State Forester (Donna LaCourt) has resigned her position. Cara Boucher is acting until position permanently filled. Position is currently posted on MI Civil Service website: <http://web1mdcs.state.mi.us/vacancyweb/VacancyInq2.asp>

Old Business:

Summary of Joint UCF/FSP meeting:

- Traverse City, May 13-15th - Theme: *Building bridges across the landscape*
- 1st time joint meeting of two committees from National Assoc. of State Foresters
- 70 attendees (28 UCF, 30 FSP, 12 USFS)
- Keynote – Dr. John Ball – South Dakota State Univ.

- Field tour highlighting Long Lake Twp.; private landowners and Sleeping Bear Dunes
- Vic Foerster (UCF council chair) and Gerry Grossman (FSP council chair) attended
- Vic Foerster commented that it gave him a much better perspective of the issues and processes being dealt with at state and federal levels.
- Meeting sparked joint resolutions to NAASF and plans for joint committee meetings next year in OH (UCF and Forest Health) and WV (FSP/Wood Utilization)
- Many positive comments

Action Item(s):

N/A

Recap of FY08 USFS Competitive Grant Process:

- FY 08 total funds available - \$5.3M (~15% of USFS – NA budget)
- Proposals received – 82 (16 multi-state) requesting \$14.2M
- Proposals funded – 26 (7 multi state; 10 urban)
- MI proposals – 8 (6 funded = \$543K)
- Joint Forest Health and UCF project *Remote Sensed Imagery for Rapid Early Detection of EAB, Beech Bark Disease, Oak Wilt, and HWA in Rural Northern MI and WI and urban Traverse City, MI.* (\$79K)
- FY 09
 - Approx. same funding available
 - Proposals available - late June/July
 - Deadline for proposal submission – Oct.
 - Awards announced – January 2009

Action Item(s):

1. *Kevin will send list/link (as possible) of FY08 awards from NA*
2. *Kevin will keep group posted on any correspondence about FY09 grants (application deadlines, process etc.)*

Budget Update:

FY 07 – \$341K

- \$110K (32%) salaries, fringes, travel, indirect and audit
- \$231K (67%) – grants
 - Arbor Day Mini Grants - \$10K
 - CFG – \$135K
 - UFG - \$85K
 - \$75K additional for DTE Tree planting grants

FY 08 – \$305K

- Reduced by 11% from FY 07
- \$130K (40%)– salaries, fringes, travel, indirect and audit
 - Partial salary/fringes for EAB Restoration coord. paid using UCF program funds
- \$175K (60%) – grants
 - Arbor Day Mini Grants - \$10K
 - CFG – \$80K
 - UFG - \$85K
- \$60-70K additional for DTE Tree planting grants

FY 09 - ???

- Presidents budget for FY09 calls for major cuts to all USFS S&PF programs
- National UCF program scheduled for 82% (\$25M) cut resulting in \$5M budget
- Must pass House and Senate. Each will make their marks (typically add much back)
- Federal cuts (if realized) would severely impact MI UCF program. (eliminate grants)
- Alliance for Community Trees (ACT) and Sustainable Urban Forest Coalition lobbying for greater support and funds for federal program (www.urbanforestcoalition.org)

Action Item(s):

1. Rebecca will email Kevin/group a sample letter for individuals to contact their congressperson in support of federal UCF program and funding

Urban Forestry Award(s):

- Partnering with ASM in renewing Arboriculture/urban forestry awards program

- Established new award - Excellence in Urban Forestry Award for local governments
- Deadline for accepting nominations – **8/1/08** (presented at ASM conf. 9/18)
- <http://www.arboriculture.citymax.com/Awards.html>
- Evaluation categories:
 1. Program growth/advancement
 2. Program innovation/uniqueness
 3. Special projects
 4. Program sustainability
 5. Partnerships

Action Item(s):

1. Kevin will send Vic F. the awards criteria and notes from ASM Awards committee meetings

2008 ROOT Program

- 1,953 trees distributed in 21 quarantined counties
- Demand was down (late announcement, little media coverage, economy)
- Cities of Lansing, Oak Park, Hillsdale were allowed to purchase remaining trees
- Problem with poor nursery stock quality (esp. oaks). Many complaints
- Lottery vs. 1st Come basis for tree purchases – Most prefer 1st Come
- New RFP for nurseries required before next program
- Nursery would prefer fall program
- Rebecca S. suggested that a fall program would require strong marketing as this is not typical time for most homeowners to think about tree planting.
- Next possible cycle would not be until Fall 2009 at earliest (timing off for DTE, nursery, DNR)
- Bert C. supports council/DNR continuing this program.
- Most program issues are minor and can be rectified before next cycle
- Need to expand beyond 21 counties contingent on additional funds/sponsors

Action Item(s):

1. *Kevin will be completing program summary report for DTE and will share with council*
2. *Kevin will keep council updated on RFP process and timelines*

USFS Update:

- 2007 US Farm Bill
- Passed by Senate and House, Pres could veto but likely to be overridden by congress
- \$307 billion
- Forestry Title contains following priorities
 - National priorities for private forest conservation
 - Comprehensive statewide forest planning – Priority area for state UCF and FSP programs
 - Community Forest and Open space conservation program – Funds available by 2010
 - Tribal/Forest Service cooperative relations

USFS Midwest Tech Transfer Ctr. Update:

- Many new reports, bulletins, pubs.

Design, Planting & Care

Road to a Thoughtful Street Tree Master Plan

Management

BMPs for Public Works Managers - APWA

Forest Health

Livable plants for the home landscape

<http://www.dehort.org/pdf/PLD%2007.pdf>

Urban Forests of Wisconsin: Pilot Monitoring Project

http://na.fs.fed.us/pubs/fhm/pilot/pilot_study_wisconsin_02_lr.pdf

Deep Roots of Landscape Trees

<http://www.mortonarb.org/deeptreeroots/>

Outreach & Marketing

Community Trees: A living investment – DVD coming soon from USFS (copy freely)

Urban Forestry Index (UFIND) –

<http://www.urbanforestryindex.net>

Action Item(s):

N/A

Tree City/Line USA - 2007 Update:

- 115 MI communities certified
- Increase of four from previous year
- Five new communities (Dowagiac, Dundee, Gladstone, Lowell, River Rouge)
- Two did not recertify (Flint, Monroe)
- 10 communities received growth award
- Largest – Detroit, smallest - Richland
- Average per/capita expenditure decreased by \$0.77 to \$7.45 from prior year
- Four Utilities recertified: (BWL, Detroit Edison, ITC, UPSCO)
- Vic F. pointed out that info. needed to be updated on DNR website.
- New - Tree Campus USA program

Action Item(s):

1. *Kevin will update TC USA info. on website*

MI Statewide Arbor Day - 2008 Update:

- Friday April, 25th Potter Park/Zoo in Lansing.
- \$25K DNR UCF grant to Eaton Conservation District to administer program
- Go Cubs!
- Rachel Wood - New Arbor Day Coordinator for Michigan Arbor Day Alliance (MADA)
- Ingham County Parks as new partner
- 800 2nd and 3rd grade students attended
- Twenty-four natural resource activity stations
- Statewide Arbor Day Poster Contest Winner on Billboards around state
- New MC - Jason Colthorp (WILX)
- Working on revamping program website

Action Item(s):

N/A

UCF Display Update:

- Have departmental approval to proceed with purchase/production of brochure/display
- Prefer roll-up banner/screen display for convenience and price (<\$500)
- Need help from committee on design, messages etc.

Action Item(s):

1. Council members willing to help with this, please contact Kevin
2. Kevin will coordinate with DNR graphic staff for design and production w/ input from council.

Community Canopy Newsletter:

- Spring/Summer edition produced by Ada T. and available for comment
- Will post to DNR website next week and send announcement around

Action Item(s):

1. Send any comments to Kevin by 6/12

New Business:

Evergreen Communities Act (Wash. State)

- See agenda handout for details.
- Group discussed merits of program and agreed to get more details and discuss at next face-to-face meeting in fall.
- Rebecca S. attended recent western meeting where this was discussed and has contacts who could help here in MI.

Action Item(s):

N/A

Arborist License in MI

- Spearheaded by Paul Dykema (City of Lansing Forester)
- Initiated in response to other industry licensing programs in MI (interior design, beauticians etc.)
- Major goals: 1) improve safety 2) improve professional image of industry
- ~15 person Committee of private, municipal, state gov., and university members
- 2 meetings so far.
- IL currently pursuing similar process (TREE EXPERT LICENSING ACT)
<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=5775&GAID=9&GA=95&DocTypeID=HB&LegID=37432&SessionID=51>
- Other states in Midwest and Northeast have similar programs and happy to assist/advise MI
- Kevin S. and Kay Sichenader (City of Ann Arbor) have researched other states

- Long-term process (3-5yrs in NJ)
- No action from committee recently as Paul has been too busy to arrange follow-up meetings
- Paul – Looking for additional support from others (has possible legis. contact to support effort)

Action Item(s):

1. Council has good representation on ad-hoc committee (Kevin, Bill L, Robert G.) and will monitor issue
2. Kevin will send council notes from Wesley Tregilgas (Tregilgas Tree Experts; ASM vice president) re: pros, cons of licensing.

Statewide Analysis for Urban Forestry Needs

- See agenda handout for details
- Using geospatial techniques (remote sensing and GIS) to better assess priority urban areas in MI (eg. ID of spatiotemporal changes in landuse for critical areas)
- a means to routinely collect information about urban forestry on statewide basis.
- Info. will help ID urban priority areas/issues that need to be addressed in Statewide Resource Assessment and Plan (as directed by USFS).
- 2 levels of resolution to analysis (Coarse – using 30M imagery for broad area analysis, Fine - using high resolution for specific area analysis)
- Can do some in-house, other (eg. high resolution analysis) could be done by contract.
- Have 2yrs. to accomplish something for state assessment and plan
- Council generally supports this initiative but needs more details.

Action Item(s):

1. Table for further discussion until next council meeting.
2. Kevin to pursue costs, funding, and process for further report at next meeting

Annual State of UCF in MI report:

- See agenda handout for details
- Kevin suggested that there should be some kind of annual report on status of DNR's UCF program as well as larger report on urban forestry in MI.
- Others commented that it may not need to be done annually (maybe every 5 yrs).
- Could be done via survey
- Cost should be minimal

- Many question – Who would do it, what are questions, publication or electronic document, etc..?
- Kevin has questions from previous survey that can be used

Action Item(s):

1. *Table for further discussion at next meeting*
2. *Kevin will discuss idea with other state coordinators and USFS to see if they have examples.*

Other:

Research

- See agenda handouts for details
- FYI on Dr. McDonnough's research paper titled: *What Do Foresters Think about Urban Forestry, Urban People, and Cities?*
- FYI - Manfred Mielke (USFS Forest Health) is requesting assistance from MI DNR UCF in helping with Bacterial Leaf Scorch project
- Wants samples (statewide) of oak leafs exhibiting leaf scorch symptoms this summer.
- Will send postage paid envelopes for returning samples.
- Conf. call to be scheduled soon for details
- Kevin will ID representative group to contact about helping from UCF contact lists.

Action Item(s):

1. *Kevin will send group email contact from Manfred M. requesting help with project.*
2. *Council members interested in helping, contact Kevin.*

On the Horizon:

- See agenda handouts for details

Next meeting:

Date/Location TBA

Adjourned:

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm

Submitted: *Kevin Sayers*